Communications Timeout

The McIDAS (Man computer Interactive Data Access System) Newsletter September 1995

1995 MUG Meeting scheduled for October 25-26

by John Pyeatt, SSEC

The 1995 McIDAS Users Group Meeting will be held October 25-26 at the Edgewater Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. Invitations to the MUG Meeting were mailed in August. If you plan to attend the meeting, be sure to register ***before September 29***. The cost is $80.00 for MUG members and $400.00 for guests. The tentative agenda for the MUG meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, October 25

Noon	Registration in the lobby of the Edgewater Hotel
1:00 p.m.	Introduction and agenda review
1:15 p.m.	1994 in review and future plans
2:15 p.m.	Operating in a distributed environment
2:45 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m.	Abstract Data Distribution Environment (ADDE)
3:45 p.m.	McIDAS sunset items
4:15 p.m.	Group photo
5:00 p.m.	Poster session setup
5:45-8:00 p.m.	Poster session and Ice Breaker

Thursday, October 26

7:30 a.m.	Continental breakfast
9:00 a.m.	VIS5D demonstration
10:00 a.m.	McIDAS hardware and operating systems
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	McIDAS-XSD and McIDAS-XCD status
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Source code management
1:30 p.m.	Internet services
2:30 p.m.	MUG business
3:15 p.m.	MUG meeting evaluation
3:30 p.m.	Meeting ends ✧

Verner Suomi — a personal view

by Bob Fox, SSEC

I first met Professor Suomi as a student in 1958, in a meteorological instruments course. I don't remember much about meteorological instruments from that course, but I do remember his philosophy: It is fair game to take any instrument apart and reassemble it in some other fashion if that helps achieve your scientific objective. As many who worked with him can testify, that happened continuously throughout his lifetime. Any instrument that went through Suomi's hands was viewed with skepticism by everyone else.

Another student remembrance is that of Professor Suomi with a hula hoop, excitedly trying to demonstrate various science principles by twirling it around his waist with vigorous hip movements. Great scientist and philosopher that he was, he didn't quite have that "movement," and finally exhorted a student to give the demonstration.

See page 2 ➢

Training Sessions scheduled for October 23-25

by John Pyeatt, SSEC

In conjunction with the 1995 MUG Meeting, we are offering McIDAS Developer/Operator Training Sessions, which start Monday, October 23 and end mid-day on October 25. Invitations to the Training Sessions were mailed with the MUG Meeting brochures. Be sure to register ***by September 22***. The cost is $1000.00 per person. The tentative agenda is as follows:

Monday, October 23

7:30 a.m.	Registration and continental breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Overview for training sessions
9:00 a.m.	McIDAS-X and -OS2 overview; Applications Development: API
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Applications Development: ADDE Part 1
Noon	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	Applications Development: ADDE Part 2
2:15 p.m.	Development environment discussion for McIDAS-X and -OS2
2:45 p.m.	Break
3:00-6:00 p.m.	Hands-on exercise, writing ADDE clients and servers

Tuesday, October 24

7:30 a.m.	Continental breakfast
8:00 a.m.	User interface training
10:00 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	Hands-on exercise, writing GUIs using Tcl/Tk
Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Designing and implementing navigation
2:00 p.m.	Implementing calibration modules
3:45 p.m.	Break
4:00 p.m.	Writing decoders and adding them to your system

Wednesday, October 25

7:00 a.m.	Continental breakfast; registration for the MUG meeting
8:00 a.m.	McIDAS operations
10:00 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	System administration for all software packages
11:00 a.m.	Training sessions end ✧

Have questions about the MUG Meeting or Training Sessions?

Call Jean Bridwell at (608) 263-9824 or send email to McIDAS User Services at *mug@ssec.wisc.edu*.

Suomi *(from page 1)*

Verner had a practical understanding of everything scientific, plugged into an incredible theoretical model of his universe. He was an engineer one moment and a scientist the next, fluidly transitioning between these two fields at will. His greatest accomplishment, in my view, was not a scientific achievement, but his perceptive ability to almost immediately find the comprehension level of people and to talk to them in a context that communicated, from grade school to postdoc. This led him to start most of his conversations with me with F=ma.

Those who knew him well were amazed at his ability to excite tremendous enthusiasm in people, and to coax them into superior performances. It pleased him when people achieved a new personal best, doing things they didn't know they could do.

The legacy of Verner Suomi is that he made science exciting, and made you excited to be participating in it with him. ✧

Communications Timeout

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Supported vendor software

SSEC supports McIDAS on the system configurations below; however, we reserve the right to change these configurations if they are not suitable for the next upgrade.

McIDAS-MVS

Operating System	IBM MVS SP 1.3.6 at PUT9202; McIDAS-MVS functions properly under other levels
TCP/IP	IBM version 2, release 2; later versions of PUT9202 also work
FORTRAN compiler	IBM version 2, release 4; compilers since version 1.4 should be compatible with this version

McIDAS-OS2

Operating System	IBM OS/2 versions 2.11 and 3.0 (WARP)
FORTRAN compiler	AT&T f2c
C compiler	EMX/GNU gcc
TCP/IP	IBM TCP/IP for OS/2 version 2.0
Hardware	IBM PS/2 386 PCs and above; IBM PC 700 series (tentative) for VGA and PM only

McIDAS-X

HP

Hardware: HP 9000 series 700 with PA-RISC 7100, 7100LC and 7150 processors

Operating System	HP-UX 9.0.5 with patch 2755 and 5165
FORTRAN compiler	HP FORTRAN version 9.01
C compiler	ANSI C version 9.03
X Window System	packaged with HP-UX 9.0.5
Motif	packaged with HP-UX 9.0.5

Operating System	HP-UX 9.0.3
FORTRAN compiler	HP FORTRAN version 9.0
C compiler	HP C version 9.19
X Window System	packaged with HP-UX 9.0.3
Motif	packaged with HP-UX 9.0.3

IBM

Hardware: RS/6000 with POWER and POWER2 processors

Operating System	AIX 3.2.5p
FORTRAN compiler	XLF version 3.2
C compiler	XLC version 1.3
X Window System	AIXwindows version 1.2.3
Motif	packaged with AIXwindows

Operating System	AIX 3.2.5
FORTRAN compiler	XLF version 2.3
C compiler	XLC version 1.3
X Window System	AIXwindows version 1.2.3
Motif	packaged with AIXwindows

SGI

Hardware: R4000, R4400 and R4600 processors

Operating System	IRIX 5.3
FORTRAN compiler	SGI FORTRAN 77 version 4.0.2
IRIS Development Option version 5.3 containing:	
C compiler	ANSI C version 3.19
X Window System	Execution Only Environment 2 version 5.3 with X11R6 Execution Environment
Motif	SGI Motif Development System version 1.2.3; SGI Motif Execution Only Environment version 1.2.3

Operating System	IRIX 5.2
FORTRAN compiler	SGI FORTRAN 77 4.0.1
IRIS Development Option version 5.2 containing:	
C compiler	ANSI C version 3.18
X Window System	Execution Only Environment 2 version 5.2 with X11R6 Execution Environment
Motif	SGI Motif Development System version 1.2.3; SGI Motif Execution Only Environment version 1.2.3

continued ➤

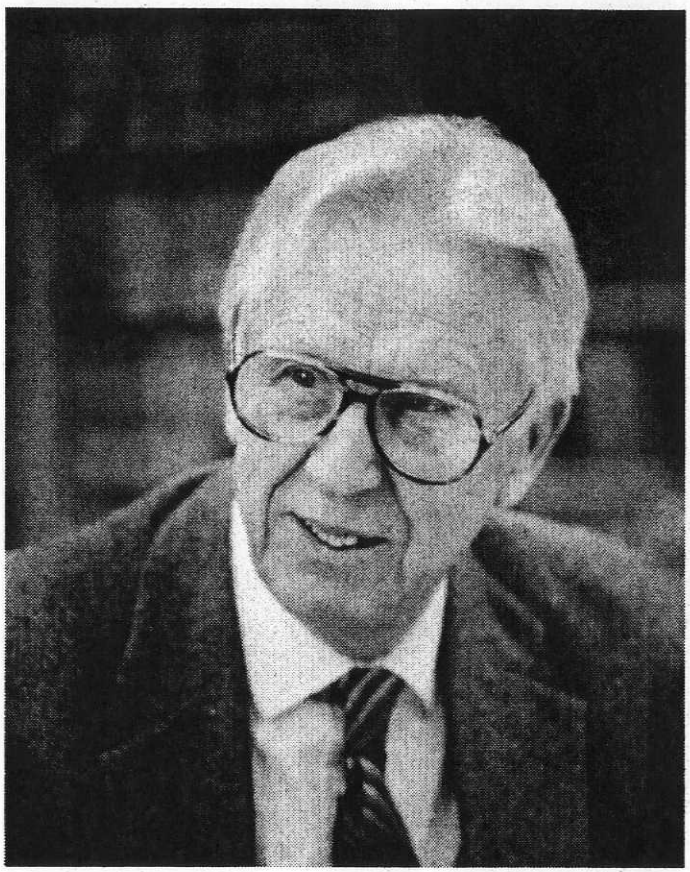
Suomi leaves monumental scientific legacy

Professor Emeritus Verner Suomi, the internationally recognized father of satellite meteorology, died on Sunday, July 30, 1995, at University Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. He was 79. Throughout his career, he made many significant contributions to the fields of meteorology, space science and engineering.

In 1965, with the late Robert Parent, Verner Suomi founded the Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Begun with a $500,000 grant from NASA, he built SSEC into a renowned research center employing 190 people and attracting scholars from around the world. He directed the Center until 1988.

After receiving his B.S. from Winona Teachers College in Winona, MN, Professor Suomi taught high school science until 1941. At the start of World War II, he enrolled in a civil air patrol course and studied meteorology. He was so intrigued with the new science, he studied with Carl Gustaf Rossby at the University of Chicago (where he received his doctorate in 1953) and taught practical meteorology to pilots.

In 1948, Professor Suomi came to the UW-Madison to join the new Meteorology Department. He spent his entire career at the UW, except for appointments as Associate Program Director for Atmospheric Sciences in the National Science Foundation in 1962, and as Chief Scientist of the U.S. Weather Bureau in 1964. Suomi taught in the Departments of Meteorology and Soil Science and the Institute for Environmental Studies until his formal retirement from teaching in 1986. He held the Harry Wexler professorship in Meteorology and directed the Department from 1950-52 and 1954-57. Even after retirement, he continued teaching a weekly undergraduate meteorology course in emeritus status.



"Verner Suomi was a giant of modern science. His inventions were simple and elegant, and their consequences are ubiquitous. Anyone looking at a satellite image of earth on the evening weather is looking at the product of a rare mind."

John D. Wiley
UW-Madison Provost

Professor Suomi invented numerous satellite instruments, which led to a better understanding of the global atmospheric circulation. He is best known for his invention of the spin-scan camera, which enabled weather satellites in geostationary orbits to continuously image the earth, revolutionizing weather forecasting. He also earned an international reputation for his invention of radiation sensing devices and his studies of the Earth's energy budget. Suomi was also an accomplished planetary scientist, whose instruments were used on numerous expeditionary spacecraft platforms including Explorer and Pioneer.

Dr. Suomi made many significant contributions to the international earth science and meteorology scientific community. With Drs. Jules Charney, Joe Smagorinsky, and Tom Malone, he founded the Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP) in the 1960s. Through his extensive contacts and personal friendships with scientists around the world, he helped develop the program internationally. Suomi was elected president of the American Meteorological Society and the Atmospheric Science Section of the American Geophysical Union in 1968. He directed and served on many influential committees. He was also the first director of the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies, an affiliate of SSEC founded in 1980.

His achievements earned him the

National Medal of Science, awarded by President Jimmy Carter in 1977; the Franklin Medal, presented by the Pennsylvania's scientific Franklin Institute in 1984; the Charles Franklin Brooks Award from the American Meteorological Society in 1980; election to the National Academy of Engineering in 1966; and many other national and international awards. With each award, he acknowledged the help of his colleagues. At the ceremony in May, 1994, to present him with the World Meteorological Organization's IMO Prize, he recognized the UW's contribution to his success, "... all the way from deans to technicians. Without their very significant encouragement and help, it never would have come to pass."

Professor Suomi never forgot his real employers or purpose, and every morning read the words on the plaque in SSEC's lobby: "... dedicated to the understanding of man's physical environment and its use for the benefit of mankind."

True to those words, Professor Suomi has left us a monumental scientific legacy.

Compiled by B. O'Brien from pieces by T. Gregory and T. Devitt

Remembering Professor Suomi

Professor Suomi's colleagues, friends and former students share their thoughts and remembrances.

"Vern Suomi provided both inspiration and sustenance to those in this country establishing the science and operational practice of satellite meteorology. ...

I, personally, will remember fondly the many hours I have spent with him while in Madison, being the beneficiary of his warmth, friendship, great intellect and his unending ability to generate both inspirational and practical ideas in almost all areas of satellite meteorology.

We will hold him in reverence forever for his great personal and scientific qualities."

John Le Marshall
Australian Bureau of Meteorology

"Vern Suomi has been teacher, mentor and friend to me for more than half a century. I have never lost touch with Vern in all the years that I have known him, largely because he was always doing exciting projects and was happy to share them with others. ...

He was one of the few science giants our field has ever had, that was also a kind and wonderful person who did so much for others without their even knowing it."

Joanne Simpson
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

"In our lifetime, we are privileged to know a few great human beings. Vern Suomi was one of these great men."

Richard Orville
Texas A&M

"... I'm afraid no one can 'fill Vern's boots.'

He meant a lot to me since we met in the late 1950s. He gave much of his time to help me get started on boundary layer measurements after I joined the old U.S. Weather Bureau. Then we got caught up in the world of satellites, GARP, and similar programs. Programs that I wouldn't have thought possible only a few years before. And Vern became world famous for the Spin Scan Cloud Camera. I still remember our collaboration to 'sell' NASA to take the risk and fly the first camera on ATS-1!

His intellectual generosity was great, and deeply appreciated."

David S. Johnson
Annapolis, Maryland

"At the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) Physical Validation Workshop yesterday (08/14/95), being held at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, a question was raised as to whether Professor Suomi was to satellite meteorology as Mickey Mantle was to baseball. The resounding response was no ... 'Mickey Mantle, while being great, did not invent baseball!'"

David B. Wolff
NASA/TRMM Office

"We will all miss his irrepressible intellect, his wit, his incisive analyses and his instinct for that which is elegant and simple. I believe it was the famous jazz musician, Thelonius Monk, who said 'simple ain't easy,' a phrase which reminds me of Vern and the way he affected the scientific community."

Dave Fulker
Unidata

"The passing of Verner Suomi is also the passing of a never-to-be-repeated era of:

Leadership, innovation, dogged determination, unbridled optimism tempered with pragmatism; pithy wit; generous friendship, patience and support for younger colleagues; an uncanny eye for talent; wisdom, and as we say in Hebrew, 'sechel' (approximately translated as common sense).

All those who worked with Vern will miss him greatly, yet we will revel in the years we had at his side, and the everlasting effect he had on our own personal outlooks and careers."

Stan Ruttenberg
UCAR, IAMAP, ICSU

"My exposure to Dr. Suomi was in a 4-credit meteorology course taken during my four undergrad years at Madison. ...

I knew him only for a brief time, and will remember him forever. A pioneer. Someone I would have wished my son would have been privileged to take a class from when he goes to college. Perhaps now he can look down on the weather anytime he wants, without a satellite."

Dale Reid
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

"'Our best friend is he who loves us in the best of ourselves and yet not asks us to be other than we are.' That is Vern Suomi. He is my friend, mentor and Guru. The science community has lost a great leader with vision, determination and compassion. Many of us, who worked with him for decades, will feel the void."

Krishna Rao
NOAA/NESDIS/ORA